

# UK Patent Application GB 2 343 370 A

(43) Date of A Publication 10.05.2000

(21) Application No 9823387.7

(22) Date of Filing 27.10.1998

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(51) INT CL<sup>7</sup>

A47G 25/30

(52) UK CL (Edition R )

A4L L121

(56) Documents Cited

GB 2242122 A GB 2168248 A

(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition R ) A4L LABF LSF L121

INT CL<sup>7</sup> A47G 25/02 25/26 25/30

ONLINE: WPI, JAPHO, EPDOC

(54) Abstract Title

Garment hanger

(57) A jacket hanger 201 has a hanger body 202 of plastics material and a hook 206. A pair of hanger arms 205 are provided with non-slip portions 207 formed by moulding non-slip material such as rubber in suitable recesses on the front face of the hanger body 202. The upper edge of each of the hanger arms 205 is free of non-slip material.

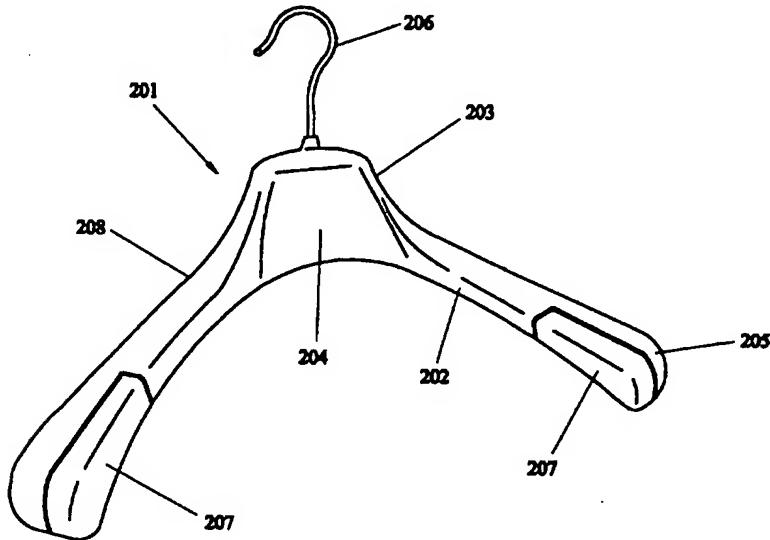


FIG. 6

GB 2 343 370 A

-1/9-

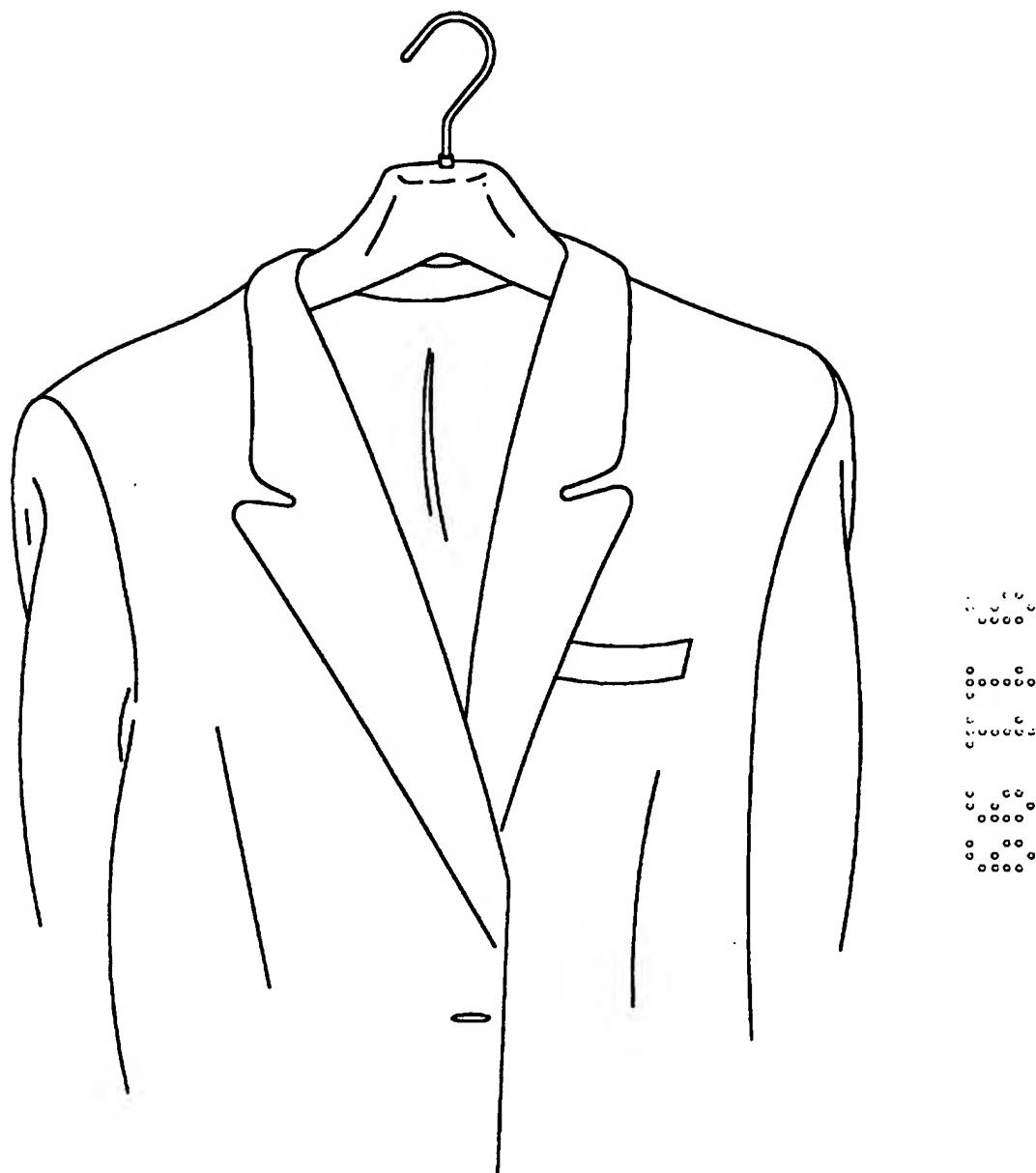
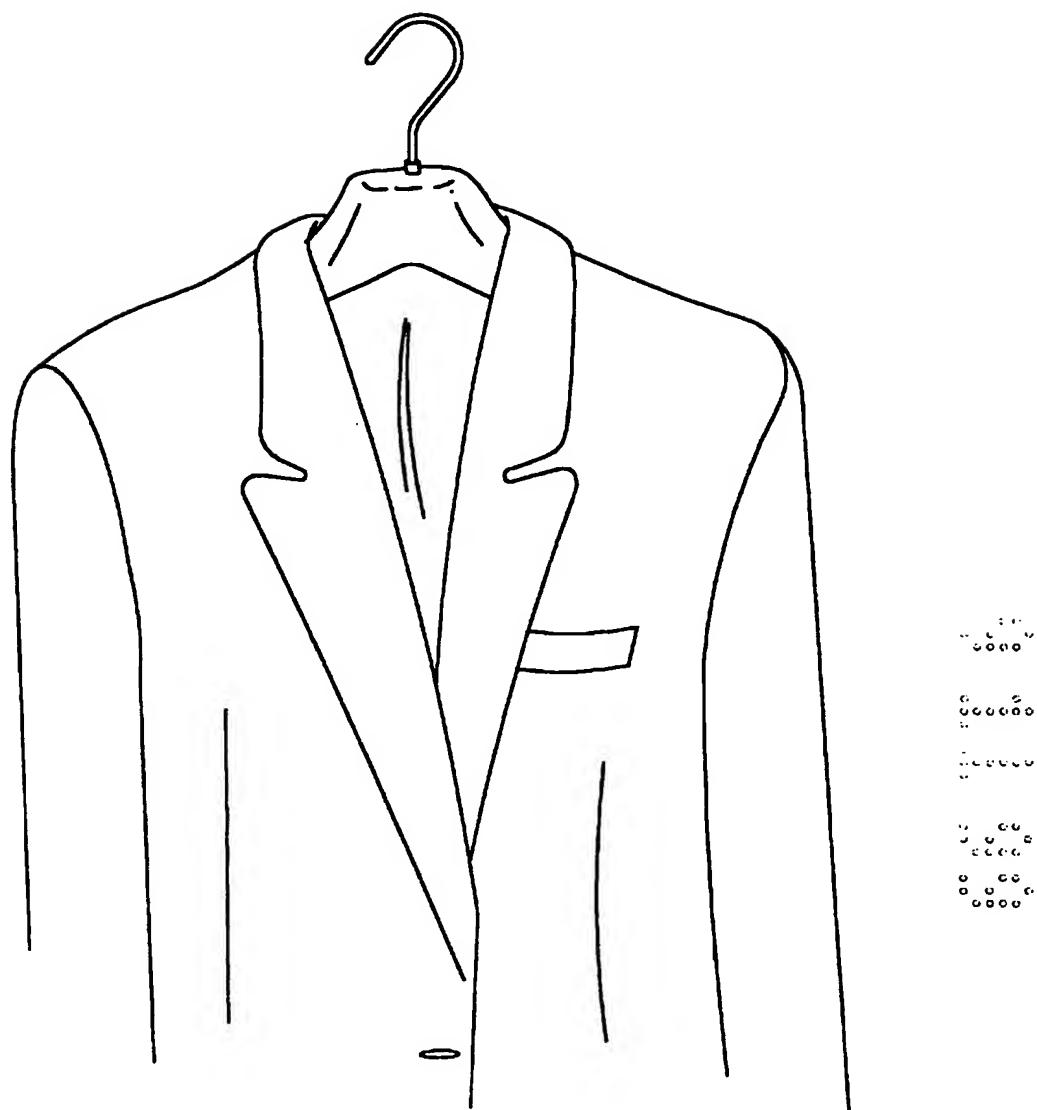
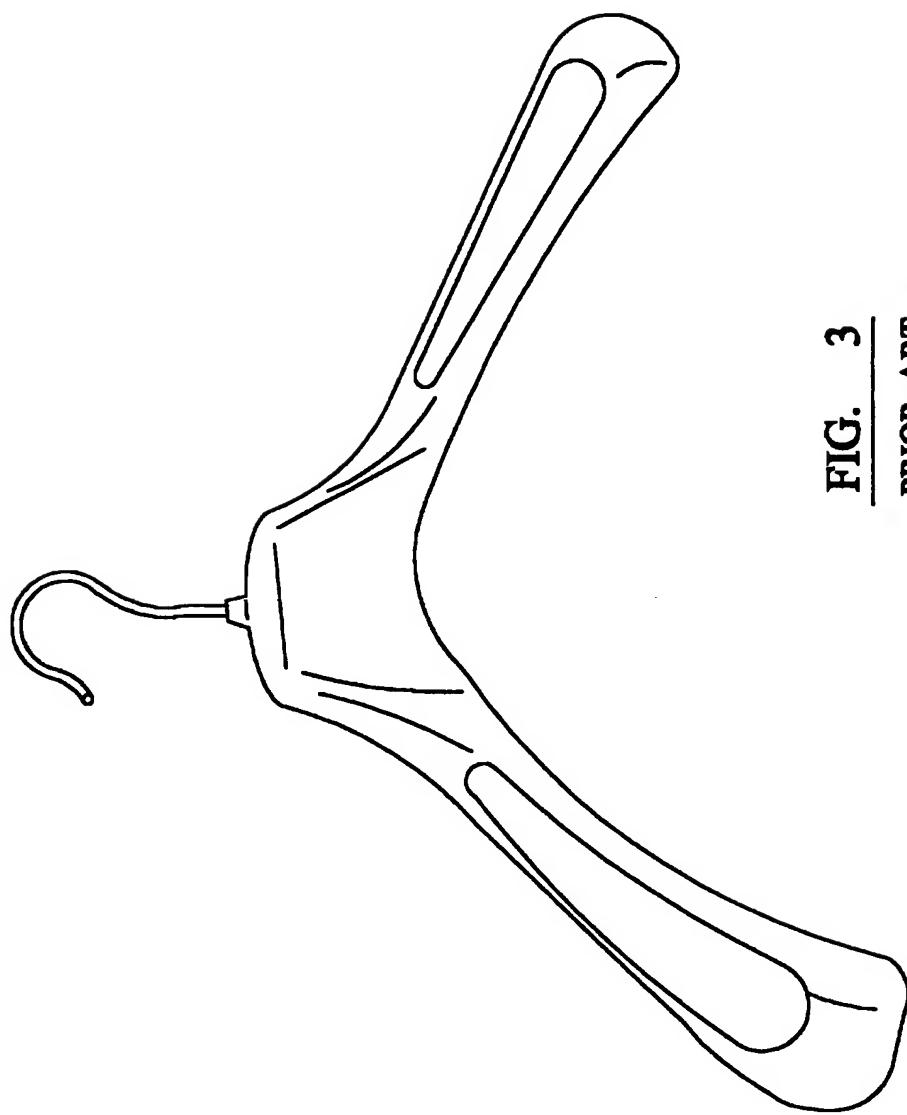


FIG. 1  
PRIOR ART

-2/9-

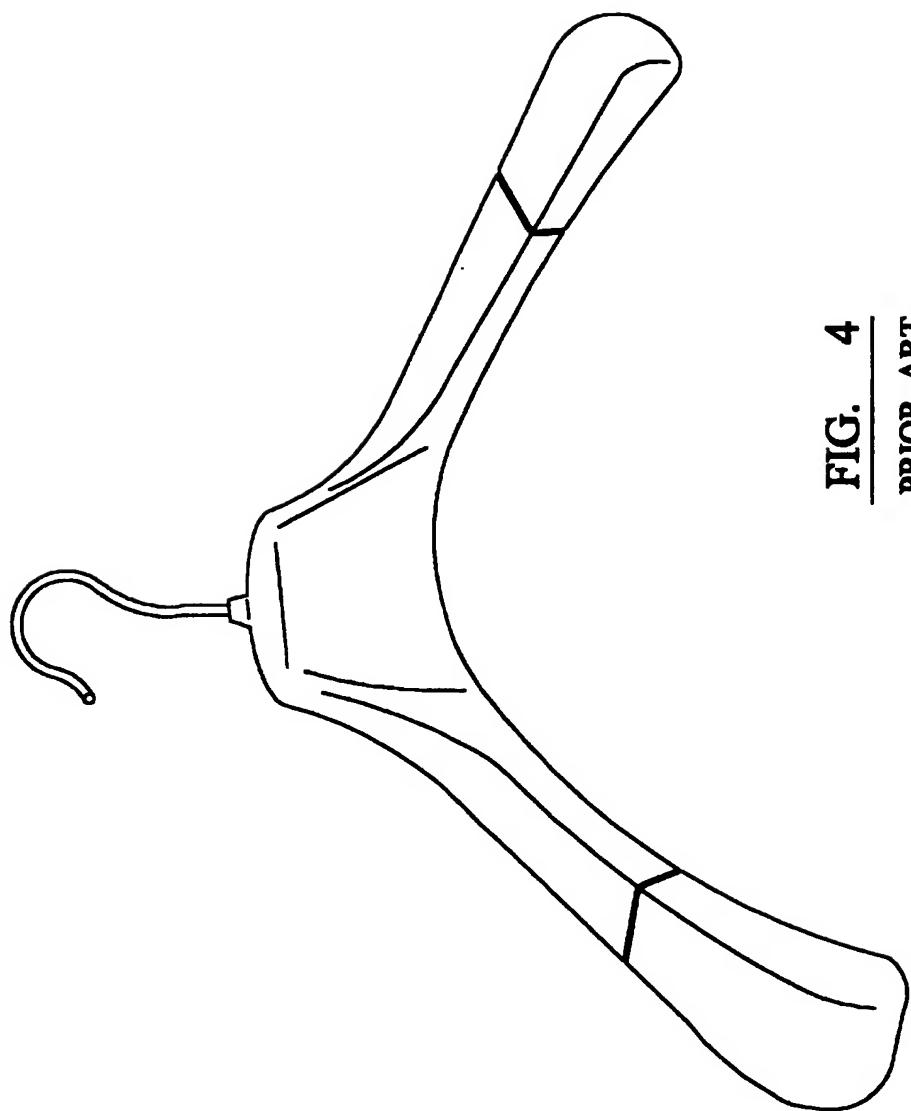


**FIG. 2**  
**PRIOR ART**



**FIG. 3**  
**PRIOR ART**

-49-



**FIG. 4**  
**PRIOR ART**

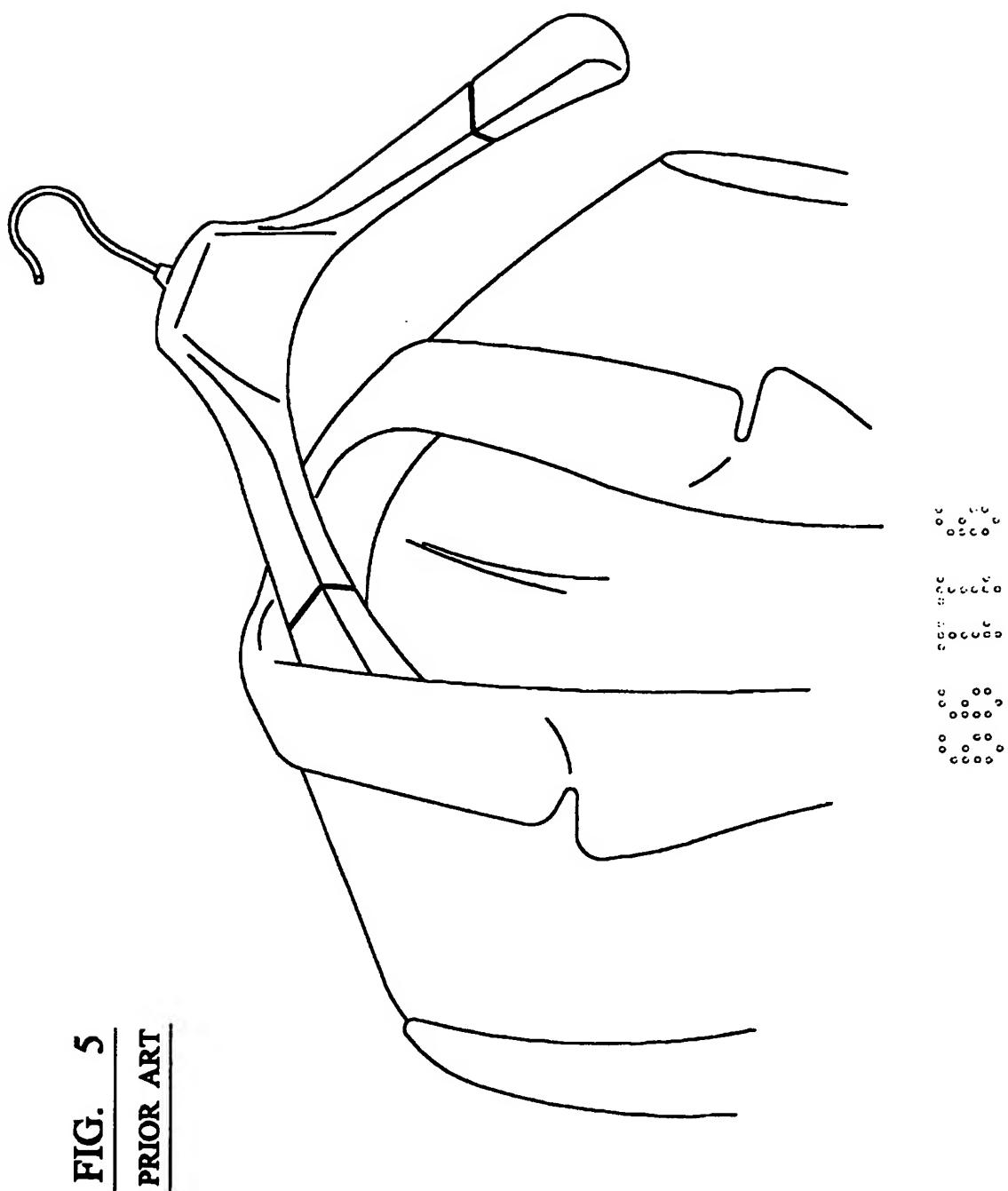


FIG. 5  
PRIOR ART

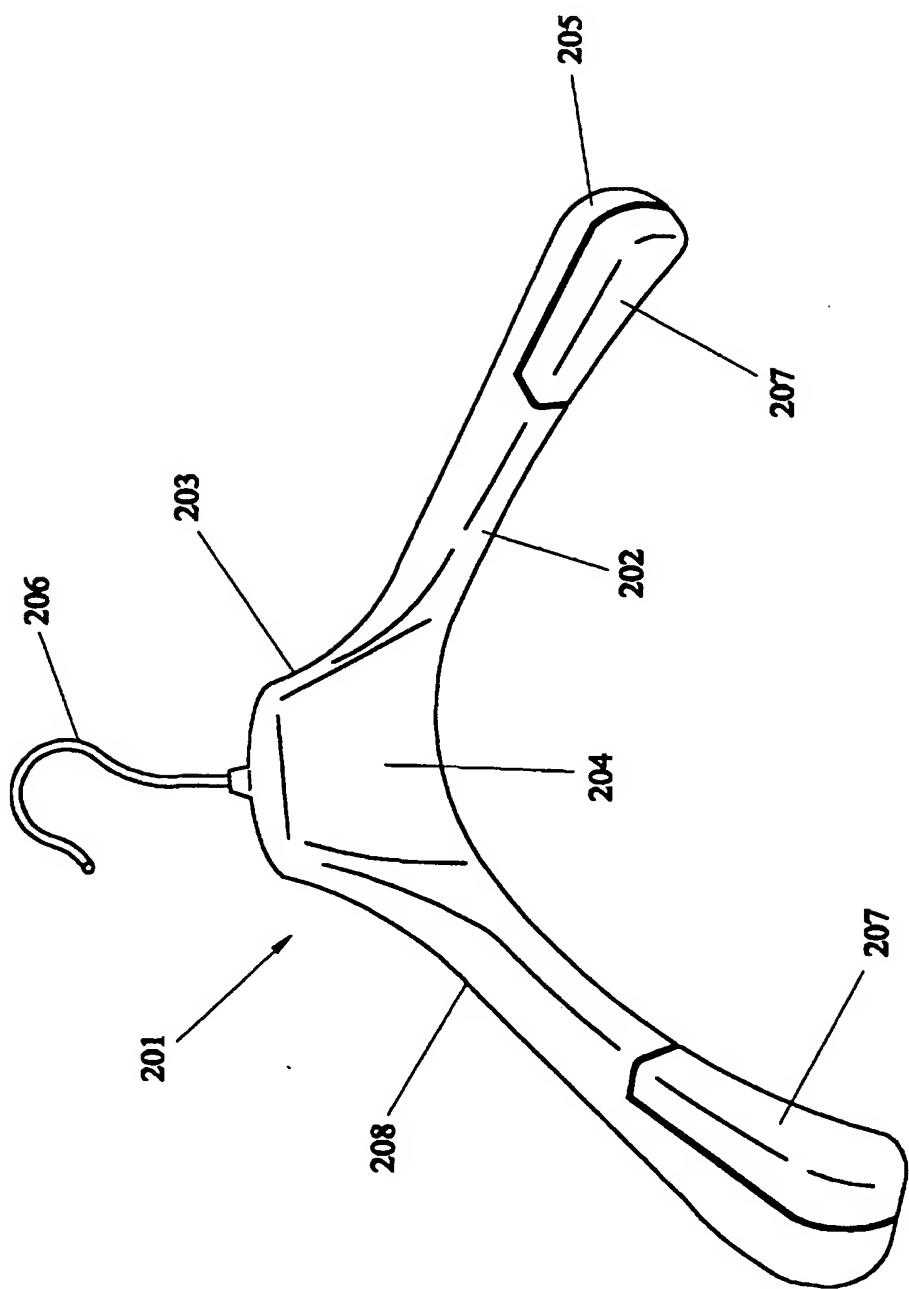
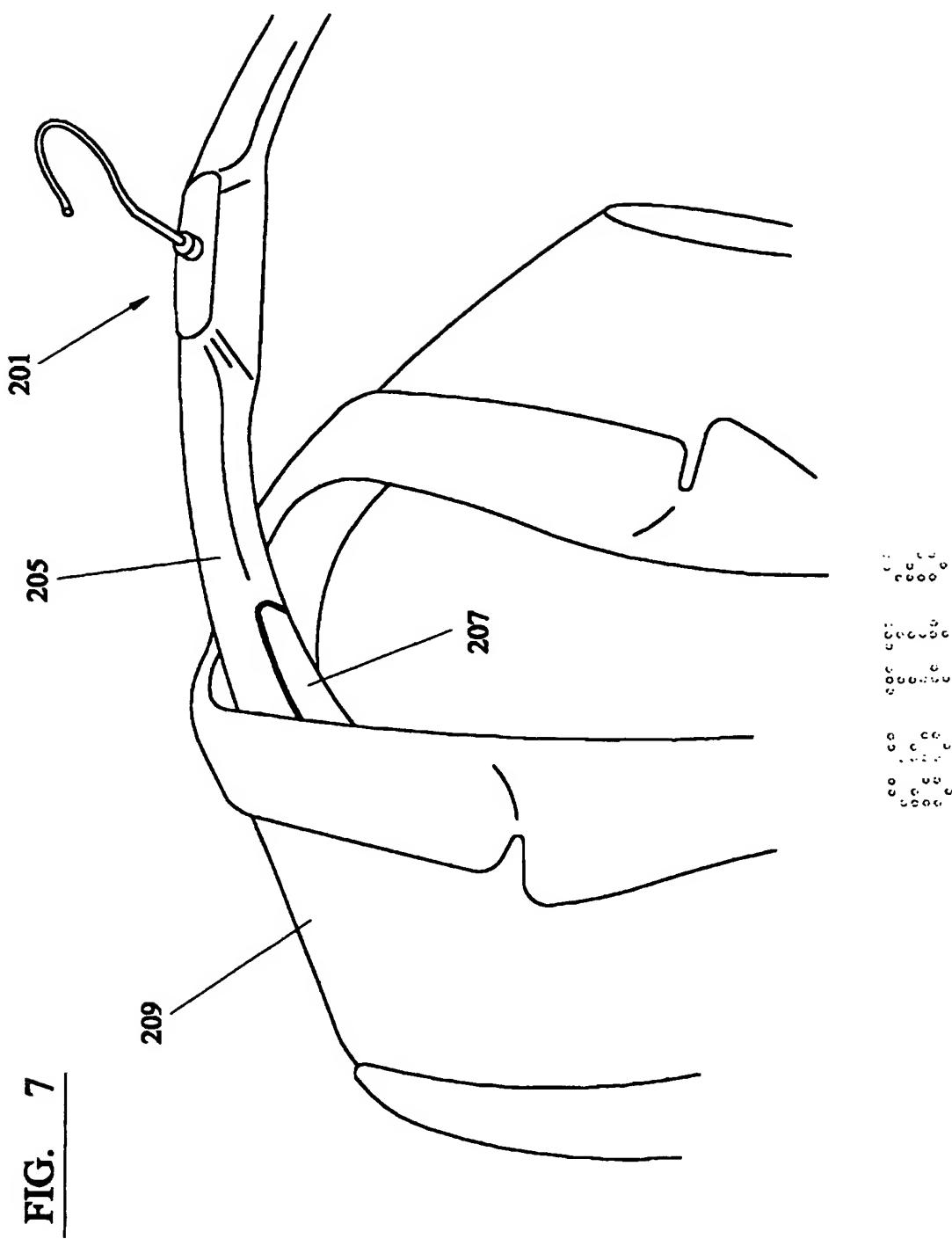


FIG. 6



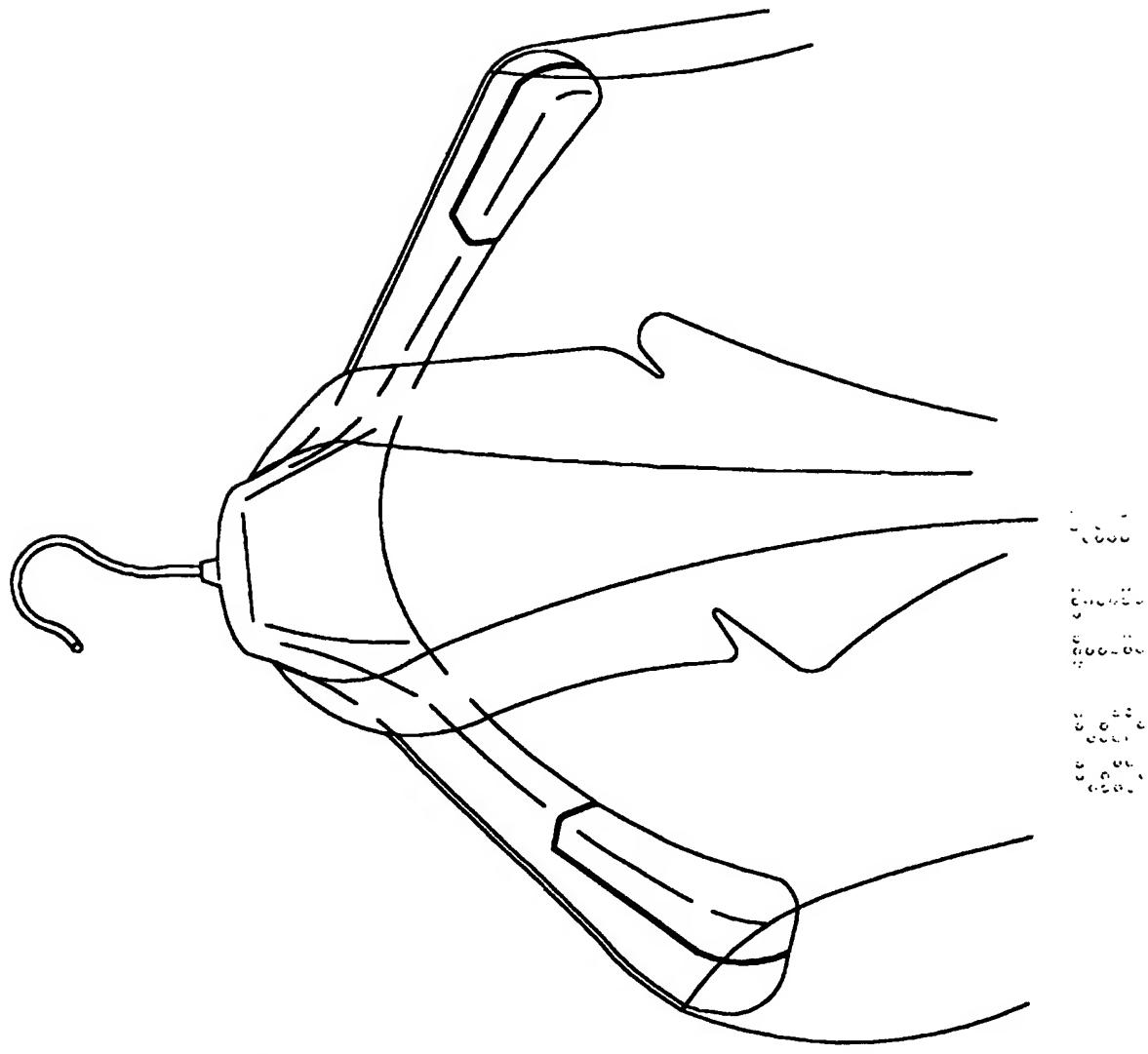


FIG. 8

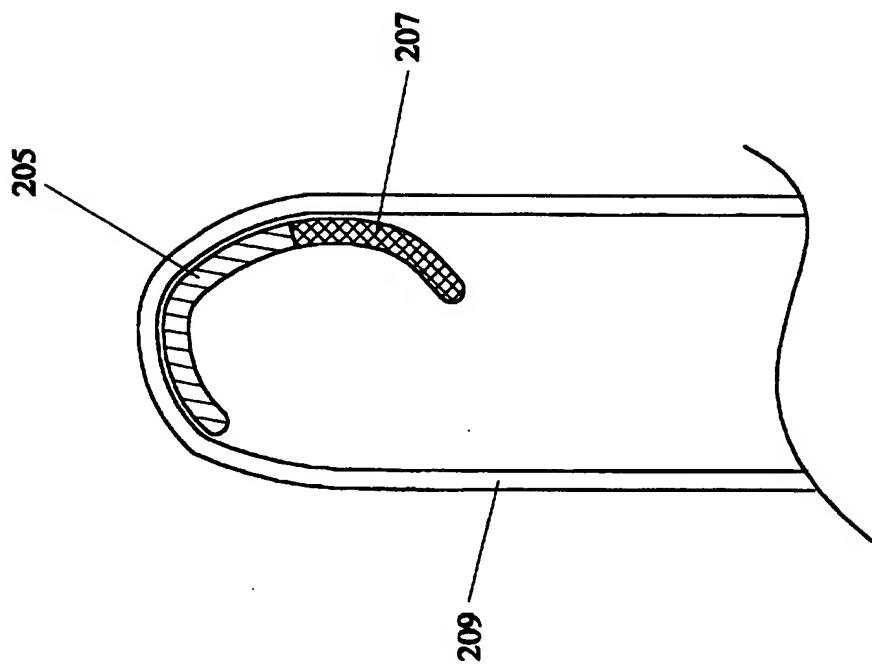


FIG. 10

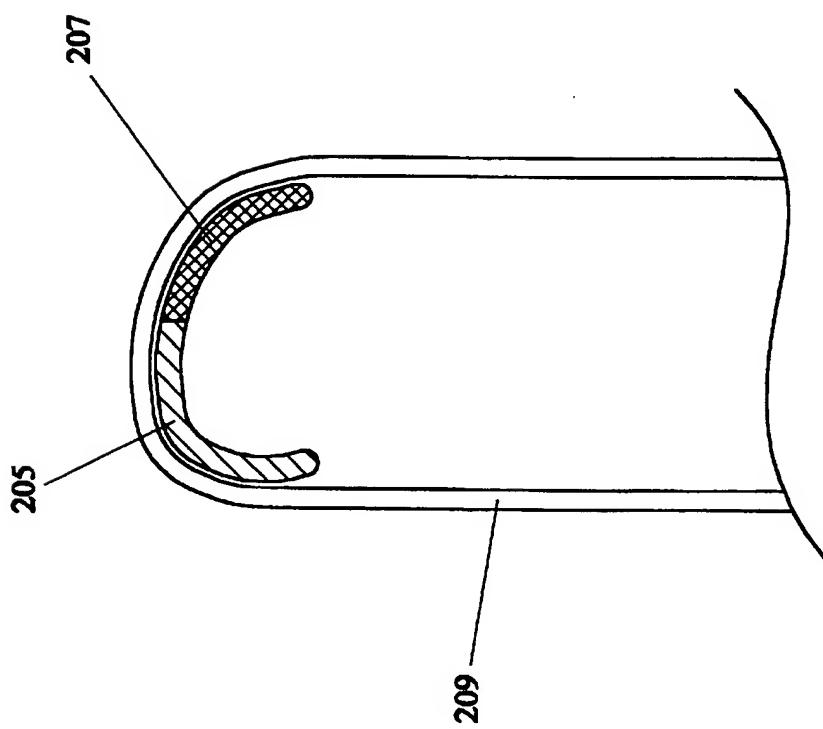


FIG. 9

**GARMENT HANGER**

The present invention relates to garment hangers, and relates particularly, but not exclusively, to jacket hangers.

Tailored jackets rely on the shape of a jacket hanger to help the jacket hang properly on the hanger. In this regard, it is important that the jacket is allowed to settle naturally on to the hanger and in its correct position.

However, the inside lining of a jacket is normally a smooth material with a low coefficient of friction relative to a hanger. Accordingly, once a jacket is loaded on to a hanger, it can generally slide or move about on the hanger. As jackets usually have more material on the back than the front, this often causes the problem that the jacket slides backwards on the hanger causing a detrimental effect on the appearance of the jacket as it is displayed on the hanger, for example in a retail outlet. This is shown in detail in Figure 1, which is a view of a jacket mounted to a hanger but having slipped from its desired hanging position. Figure 2, on the other hand, illustrates the desired position of the jacket on the hanger.

Attempts have been made to solve this problem by providing a non-slip material, such as rubber, or a non-slip texture on the upper surface of the arms of the hanger. Examples of such hangers are shown in Figure 3, which shows a hanger having the rubber/non-slip surface along the upper edge of each arm of the hanger, and Figure 4, which shows a hanger having the rubber/non-slip surface at the end of each hanger arm.

Known hangers of this type suffer from the drawback that because the inside lining of a jacket is generally fairly loose, as the arm of the hanger is inserted into the jacket it snags on the lining making loading of the garment on to the hanger difficult. This problem is illustrated in more detail in Figure 5, which shows the hanger of Figure 4 being inserted into a jacket. This problem can also result in the lining being crumpled and pulled out of its correct position relative to the rest of the jacket, which can in turn detrimentally affect the appearance of the garment on the hanger.

The present invention seeks to overcome the above disadvantages of the prior art.

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a garment hanger comprising:-

a hanger body including first and second garment support means;

suspension means extending from the hanger body for suspending the hanger from a support; and

friction means, provided on a forward facing surface of each said garment support means when the hanger is in use, wherein each said friction means is adapted to grip a garment to prevent the garment slipping relative to the hanger when mounted thereto, the upper edge of each said garment support means of the hanger in use being free of said friction means.

Each said friction means may include an elastomeric material.

In a preferred embodiment, each said friction means includes rubber.

The hanger body may be made substantially of plastics material.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of mounting a garment to a hanger as defined above, the method comprising:-

orienting the hanger relative to the garment such that each said friction means is kept out of contact with said garment while the respective garment support portion is inserted into the garment; and

reorienting the hanger relative to the garment to bring said friction means into contact with the interior of the garment.

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only and not in any limitative sense, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a garment hanger embodying the present invention;

Figure 7 shows the insertion of the hanger of Figure 6 into a jacket;

Figure 8 shows a desired location of the hanger of Figure 6 inside a jacket;

Figure 9 is a cross-sectional view of the location of the hanger of Figure 6 inside the jacket in the hanging position; and

Figure 10 is a cross-sectional view, corresponding to Figure 9, showing the position of the hanger on insertion into the garment.

Referring to Figure 6, a partially rubberised jacket hanger 201 embodying the present invention has a hanger body 202 of plastics material formed by a suitable method such as injection moulding. The hanger body 202 has a central portion 203

having a label area 204, and a pair of hanger arms 205 extending from the central portion. A hook 206 also extends from the central portion 203 to enable the hanger 201 to be suspended from a support.

Non-slip portions 207 are formed by moulding non-slip material such as rubber in suitable recesses on the front face of the hanger body 202 at the outer ends of the hanger arms 205, leaving the rear surface 208 of the hanger body 202 free of non-slip material.

Referring now to Figure 7, in order to mount a jacket 209 to the hanger 201, the hanger 201 is oriented relative to the jacket such that as the hanger arm 205 is inserted into the jacket, the non-slip portion 207 is kept out of contact with the lining of the jacket. This process is repeated for the other hanger arm 205, and the hanger 201 is then correctly oriented to bring the two non-slip portions 207 into contact with the lining at the front of the jacket to prevent the jacket 209 from slipping relative to the hanger, as shown in Figure 8. As shown in more detail in Figures 9 and 10, the hanger 201 is turned forwards relative to the jacket 209 on insertion to prevent the non-slip portions 207 from gripping the lining of the jacket 209. When both hanger arms are located in the desired positions in the jacket, the hanger 201 is then turned backwards relative to the jacket to bring the non-slip portions into contact with the lining of the jacket. In this way, the jacket is prevented from slipping on the hanger, but mis-alignment of the lining relative to the rest of the jacket is avoided, thus enhancing the appearance of the jacket on the hanger.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that the above embodiment has been described by way of example only, and not in any limitative sense, and that various alterations and modifications are possible without departure from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A garment hanger comprising:-

a hanger body including first and second garment support means;

suspension means extending from the hanger body for suspending the hanger from a support; and

friction means, provided on a forward facing surface of each said garment support means when the hanger is in use, wherein each said friction means is adapted to grip a garment to prevent the garment slipping relative to the hanger when mounted thereto, the upper edge of each said garment support means of the hanger in use being free of said friction means.

2. A hanger according to claim 1, wherein each said friction means includes an elastomeric material.

3. A hanger according to claim 2, wherein each said friction means includes rubber.

4. A hanger according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hanger body is made substantially of plastics material.

5. A method of mounting a garment to a hanger according to any one of the preceding claims, the method comprising:-

orienting the hanger relative to the garment such that each said friction means is kept out of contact with said garment while the respective garment support portion is inserted into the garment; and

reorienting the hanger relative to the garment to bring said friction means into contact with the interior of the garment.

6. A garment hanger substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 6 to 10 of the accompanying drawings.

7. A method of mounting a garment to a garment hanger, the method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 6 to 10 of the accompanying drawings.



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Application No: GB 9823387.7  
Claims searched: 1-7

Examiner: Jason Scott  
Date of search: 1 March 2000

Patents Act 1977  
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed. R): A4L (LABF, LSF)

Int Cl (Ed. 7): A47G (25/02, 25/26, 25/30)

Other: ONLINE: WPI, JAPIO, EPODOC

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 2242122 A MORPLAN	
A	GB 2168248 A GAFTARNICK	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.